

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 9-15 and 18-29 stand withdrawn as being directed toward non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1-8, 16, and 17 stand rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Komiya et al. (2002/0042035). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims presented herein, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 now defines a hydrogen generator having a tubular water evaporator formed within the space between first and second tubular wall elements. The second tubular wall element is coaxially disposed outside the first tubular wall element and is provided with a water inlet and a feed gas inlet.

The Final Rejection proposes that Komiya's pre-heat layer 51a, illustrated in Fig. 1, corresponds to the Applicants' claimed water evaporator and that pre-heat layer 51a has coaxial tubular wall elements 61 and 62 forming a tubular space within pre-heat layer 51a (see Final Rejection section 6, lines 1-4 and 8-11). The Final Rejection further proposes that Komiya's water inlet 20 corresponds to the claimed water inlet and that Komiya's gas feed inlet 26 corresponds to the Applicants' claimed gas feed inlet.

However, as may be determined by inspection of Komiya's Fig. 1, Komiya's water inlet 20 and gas feed inlet 26 are not inlets to pre-heat layer 51a through either of Komiya's coaxial tubular wall elements 61 and 62. Thus, Komiya does not identically disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter of a tubular water evaporator formed within the space between first and

second tubular wall elements, such that the second tubular wall element is coaxially disposed outside the first tubular wall element and has a water inlet and a feed gas inlet.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Komiya does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is considered to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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JEL/DWW/att

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